

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held August 3rd 2010 in Ardent inny Village Hall

Committee Present: Val Kennedy (Chair), Malcolm Bartley, Stephen Johnstone, Eileen Connell, Dennis Gower.

Apologies, Bill Williamson, Teresa Forsyth.

Others Present; Bruce Marshall, Jessie Crowe, David McKenzie, Elaine Allan, Bill Bincham, Vicky Fairley, David McDowall, Colin McColl (Fire Safety Officer)

Apology. Donald McKay.

Declaration of Interest None

Accepting of Minute

Val opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

She asked if the members had read the minute of the last meeting and if they were a true record.

Dennis asked for several amendments to be made but when these were done he would be happy with the minute. Val asked for someone to propose the minute.

Proposed:- Malcolm Bartley.

Seconded:- Dennis Gower

Matters Arising from Minute.

Road from village hall to Stronvochlan. The work is still pending. An update to be covered in Jessie's report later in the meeting.

School closures. No response received from letter Val sent re this.

Proposed cuts in bus service to Ardent inny. There has been no response back from the Chief Executive regarding this. As yet there have been no changes to the bus timetable. Val agreed to email the Chief Executive to ask what the situation is.

Derelict boat on beach near hotel. Val has contacted the owner but as yet there has been no reply.

Police Report. P.C. Donald McKay was unable to attend as he is on paternity leave.

Treasurer's Report. Malcolm reported that there had been no outlay or income during the past few weeks so the balance remained at £2,069.54p.

Secretary's Report No letters have been received. Communication which has been received by email has already been circulated to community councillors.

Councillor's Report. Bruce has approached the roads department to request new signposts at each end of the village. Bruce reported that there is a possibility that they will be replaced.

The jet patcher had been through the village to fill the potholes. The road between Blairmore to Stronchullin is not on the present programme to be resurfaced.

Forestry Commission Report.

- The work at the fence between the nursery field and the caravan park will not begin until October.
- The hedge cutting throughout the village has not yet been done as the contractor has had difficulties with the machine but will carry out the work as soon as possible.
- The work at Riverside Walk has been completed.
- Clearance work at Stronvochlan road is still pending.
- 2 additional litter bins are in place at the picnic site. These have been 90% successful but some people are still leaving bags and rubbish on site.
- Easter Event. Steve Gillen asked if the community would like to join together with Forestry Commission for this event. Eileen explained that this was a one off occasion by the village hall as the Bowling Club was out of commission and it was expected to return to the usual arrangements for next year.
- 36 Police hours have been obtained through Operation Ironworks so there will be regular patrols in our area.

- The blue pipe has now been buried. The water supply is ongoing with Water Chem to fit another filter in the system which will result in 4 in total.
- There is still a problem with litter and a lot of tree damage at the picnic area. Bags of dog dirt still being left lying around or hanging in trees.
- Forest Holidays were considering the Nursery Fields for a possible site. After a site visit it was decided that the site was not suitable due to road access.
- The rhododendron cutting project is well under way.
- The crossing at the burn on the Ardentinnny to Carrick Castle walk has been looked at. It was decided that no handrail or bridge will be installed at present but the situation will be monitored. Stephen requested that a risk assessment is carried out on this part of the walk. Dennis acknowledged that this route may be used for more seasoned walkers. Stephen asked that a risk assessment is carried

Hydro Power Dennis has contacted Suilven Weatherhead but, as yet, has had no reply. Val has emailed to register interest.

David McKenzie reported that renewable energies are now using a feeding tariff. It was agreed that Dennis will contact Alienergy to get details. Bruce reported that Lochgoilhead is now ready to take their project to tender. Val suggested that a representative be identified to take this forward and that perhaps someone could be co-opted to do this.

Signage on Larach Pass Stephen outlined that additional signage may be beneficial on the road from Ardentinnny to the Whistlefield. Firstly, although there is a sign warning of horses, this is in the wrong place as there does not tend to be horses up the hill but it would be better to have it near the stables.

Also it was felt that warning notices for icy winter weather should be in place to help to prevent a recurrence of the accident with the bus a few months ago. It was acknowledged that the present signage is outdated but Bruce stressed that there are severe budget constraints within the council at present. However it was agreed that he would take our request of new signage warning of the hill gradient and the bends for each end of the

Larach. Also a request to have more visible road markings at Whistlefield road end. Val will write to Roads Department to advise them of our concerns

Fire Safety Officer.

Val introduced Colin McColl from Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and welcomed him to the meeting. Colin had been invited to the meeting as a response to concerns about fireworks being set off near animals.

Colin reported that there is no legislation in place to cover this situation and it would be a matter of common sense on both the person setting off fireworks and the animal owners. There is a recommendation by the Royal Veterinary College that there should be at least half a day to give animal owners notice but this is not the law and again common sense should prevail.

Elaine Allan suggested that the National Park should have a code on the use of Chinese Lanterns as the remains of these which fall to the ground can also be harmful to animals. Again Colin stated that there is no legislation for these lanterns and again common sense should be used.

Stephen asked Colin if there were any regulations in regard to having bonfires. Colin informed that it is illegal to have bonfires between the hours of 7.00pm to 8.00am. Whether this also refers to campfires is yet to be confirmed.

Val thanked Colin for coming to the meeting and for his information and support.

A.O.C.B.

Noticeboard A couple of notices on the noticeboard had been defaced by someone putting disparaging remarks about the author. This is unacceptable and does not help the image of Ardentenny. Should anyone see any further occurrence of this, could they please remove the defaced item from the board.

Bracken Spraying. A complaint had been received by the Forestry Commission about the recent spraying which had carried out by a local farmer. The woman had claimed that she had been sprayed during this operation but further investigation had revealed that this was not the case.

All Community Council members had been informed of the spraying on 20th July. There followed a robust discussion with several points being made. Bruce defended the actions of the farmer as he was aware that all proper actions had been taken to inform all authorities involved. A question was raised about whether it was the Community Council's responsibility to inform the village of this operation. A suggestion was made that, should there be spraying in the future, once the Community Council are informed, information should be put on the noticeboard. It was felt that this may encumber the Community Council with responsibility and there should be more investigation into the legal aspect of this before any decision is made. It was agreed that Stephen will look into this and the subject will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Kilmun Cemetery

Stephen asked Bruce if there could be anything done about the condition of the toilets at Kilmun Cemetery as they were in a poor state. Bruce agreed to look into this.

Operation Ironworks There are new bye-laws in operation at East Loch Lomondside which prevent wild camping in that area. This may cause more people to travel to our area to camp. Operation Ironworks is now in place and there will be additional patrols over the summer period. A list of dates of the patrols will be put on the noticeboard.

Local Plan The National Park Local Plan is to be updated and it is the Reporters decision that the housing application be withdrawn. Ardentenny is viewed as a settlement and their decision is that the field around Lochview is now removed from the settlement and open for the Forestry Commission to sell. If they sell then this area will be offered to the community first.

Position of Secretary

As none of the existing council members wish to be considered for the position of secretary, a notice will be put up on the community noticeboard inviting people in the village to come forward to fill the position.

There are still 2 committee member places unfilled and elections for additional members are due. Nominations are to be in by 18th August and elections will take place on 22nd September. David and Vicky agreed to put this information on Ardentinny.org

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th October 2011 at 7.30pm.